

A decorative floral border runs vertically along the left side of the slide. It features a repeating pattern of stylized flowers and leaves in shades of green, yellow, and brown, set against a light background.

JULY'S CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

SUMMER VACATION!

Summer is here, the kids are out of school, and many families are gearing up for vacation. While planning your summer-fun getaway, don't forget to include these safety tips to protect your home and family while away



Before you leave:

Ensure the safety of your home and property by taking a few precautions before you leave. Remember that burglars hate confrontation. Make your home LOOK occupied!

- ***Keep shades and blinds in their normal positions.***
- ***Keep your garage door closed and locked***
- ***Stop by the post office and have your mail delivery placed on hold until you return.***
- ***Have your newspaper delivery stopped until you get home.***
- ***Use inexpensive timing devices to turn inside lights and radios/televisions on and off at routine times.***
- ***Consider leaving a radio on (or place one on a timer).***
- ***Ask your neighbor to park in your driveway, if it helps maintain an air of occupancy***
- ***Arrange to have your lawn tended (or snow shoveled) during the time you are away***
- ***Make sure all door and window locks are in proper working order. Utilize them!***
- ***Activate your home alarm (if you have one).***



Packing for your trip... :

Preparation and planning are the keys to a successful vacation. While you are planning on what you will take with you, keep these pointers in mind:

- ***Organize your wallet or purse before you leave and only take essential credit cards. Plan to use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash whenever possible.***
- ***Make it harder for pickpockets to target you by carrying your purse close to your body, or tucking your wallet in an inside front pocket. You might prefer to carry your valuables in a "fanny pack", for added security.***
- ***Lighten the load! Pack those suitcases with essential items. Heavy, cumbersome luggage will not only slow you down, but make you a more vulnerable target.***
- ***Remember that expensive, designer luggage can draw unwanted attention to your belongings and invite theft. Use more practical luggage that doesn't stand out.***
- ***List the contents of checked baggage and keep that list separate. Keep items of value (such as medicine and jewelry) in your carry-on bag.***
- ***If you are planning an extended vacation, consider shipping larger items to your destination in advance. For the return trip, mail bulky new purchases home, or ask merchants to do it for you.***



Sightseeing

Sightseers have a way of attracting the observant eye of the thief, who watches for the lost vacationer laden with bags and cameras. Blend in with the crowd by utilizing these tips:

- ***Stay alert! Keep your mind on your surroundings and those around you.***
- ***Don't display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags, and other items that might draw attention.***
- ***Check maps before you leave your hotel, so you can tour confidently.***
- ***Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets at all times -- no shortcuts.***
- ***Always lock your car when it's parked, even if the stop is brief.***
- ***Keep any valuables in your car out of sight (preferably locked in the trunk).***
- ***Don't advertise that you're a tourist by leaving maps and guidebooks on the seat or dashboard - keep them in the glove compartment.***
- ***Keep your family together, and keep a watchful eye on your children at all times. Make sure they know the name and location of the lodgings where they are staying, and teach them what to do if they get lost or separated.***
- ***Designate a meeting spot, in the event that one does get lost from the group.***